

## Trinity Lutheran Church

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January 2008

### Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Christian friends,

Just coming after Christmas and going into Epiphany, we have one of the saddest stories of senseless violence in the whole Bible. Over 2,000 years ago, King Herod orders the “slaughter of the innocents.” To murder one baby born in Bethlehem to be “King of the Jews,” he orders the ruthless killing of all the baby boys under two years of age in Bethlehem and the surrounding area. St. Matthew tells us this in fulfillment of prophecy: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; refusing to be comforted, because they are no more” (Matthew 2:18).

This month we mark the anniversary of another great tragedy. Thirty-five years ago, a group of men who were appointed to be the very antithesis of ruthless, invented a constitutional protection for murdering the innocent. With the infamous decision of the Supreme Court in the Roe v. Wade case, these jurists legalized the murdering of babies as the means to protect “choice” and “rights” and “reproductive freedom. The slaughter, which still goes on today, has claimed the lives of well over 47 million babies. Even evil King Herod could have never imagined devastation on such a scope.

Modern-day Rachels—men and women—weep for children who are no more. Unlike the Rachels of Bethlehem, these modern-day Rachels participate in the choice that kills the innocent making their grief and guilt incomparable. Modern-day Rachels participate in a terrible sin, but they are not the murderers. A society that permits, even encourages such slaughter and calls it a good choice and those who perform such executions are the murderers. The rest of us who stand in the shadows, without speaking up for the unborn are not blameless either.

But in the old story there is a glimmer of hope and light. One child escapes the bloody death that night to be preserved for another down the road. The slaughter of the Innocent One on the cross at Golgotha was thought to finally be the end of this “King of the Jews.” But it wasn’t. Rather, in God’s magnificent way of bringing light into darkness, this death was glorious and victorious. Now through the risen King of Kings there is newness and hope. There is salvation and life.

There is hope for modern-day Rachels (including you and me) because Christ’s forgiveness is objective and free. His strength is best seen in weakness. There is hope for modern-day Herods because His forgiveness extends to every repentant heart. There is hope for a society sitting in the darkness of death because He has come as the Light of the world. There is hope for those of us who have silently stood by while the atrocities have happened. His forgiveness is ours, too. The grace and mercy shown us by the Lord pulls us out of the shadows and compels us to speak up on behalf of the innocent ones. We know the Innocent One and the hope He can bring.

On Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be observing Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Yes, we will mourn the death of all of those innocent ones. But we will be comforted by God’s gracious forgiveness and receive encouragement from God’s Word to speak up for all of those who cannot speak for themselves, especially the unborn and those facing end-of-life decisions. I pray that you will join us.

In Christ!

*Pastor Moeller*

## **Stewardship Thoughts**

In January we Christians celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ. This season begins with the visit of the Wise Men to the village of Bethlehem to come and worship the King and Savior not only of the Jews but also of the Gentiles. Epiphany continues with the baptism of Jesus as part of the plan of His Father to fulfill all righteousness. On the second Sunday after Epiphany we read about the witness of John the Baptist that Jesus is truly the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus is the one on whom the Holy Spirit descended to enable him to carry out completely the mission of salvation given to him by His Father. On the third Sunday after Epiphany we recall the desert temptation battle in which Satan did his devilish worst to get Jesus to disobey the will of God. The season of Epiphany concludes with the transfiguration of Jesus when he revealed the splendor of his divine glory to Peter, James and John.

Jesus did not display his divine power in order to show off, but rather to do the will of his Father in heaven. Jesus used his divine power to give glory to God and countless blessings to millions of people who would otherwise perish in hell. In his three-year journey to the cross Jesus put his love into action. He healed the sick, raised the dead and proclaimed the good news of salvation. And then on the cross he made the supreme sacrifice of giving all—even his life—to fulfill God's plan of salvation. From start to finish Jesus, God's chief steward, demonstrated his stewardship perfectly with acts of love.

January is a good time of the year to make some resolutions that honor God and bring blessings to other people through our acts of stewardship. Stewardship begins with a changed heart which results in acts that demonstrate faith and love. As the Apostle John said, ***“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)***

Epiphany commemorates Jesus showing his love in action. Epiphany is a great time for us Christian stewards to also dedicate all that we are [the children of God] and have [gifts of time, talent and treasure] to bring glory to God and blessings to others.

## **Trinity Pictorial Directory**

Once again we will have the opportunity to have all of the members star in a pictorial directory. It has been several years since we have done this and we have many faces to enter that were not here the last time. It is also possible that some of us have changed slightly, like more kids or looking younger and things like that.

February 8 and 9 are the dates that we will be taking pictures of the congregation. If you have family members that are not members of Trinity you may have a family portrait taken but only the members of Trinity will be in the directory. You will receive a free 8x10 portrait of both. We will set up a time for the family portrait and immediately after that take a picture of the people that are members. If you want to do this just sign up for two time slots and they will be happy to take both pictures. A free directory will be given to all members.

We have begun the scheduling process so please stop by and reserve a time so that you may be included in our new pictorial directory. Thank you!

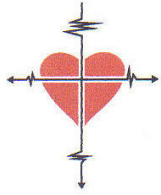
Laura Johnson (528-7260)

Ray Matthies (528-3457)

## **TLC Bible Study**

Pastor Moeller is leading a Bible study, which explores the weekly Bible stories the children will hear at Trinity Learning Center. While this is specifically intended to help the teachers and workers prepare, everyone from the congregation is invited to attend. Please join us each **Thursday at 5:30 p.m.**

## Fit for Life



Why is the world so messed up? Why does God let bad things happen to good people? If we all use the same Bible why are there so many different denominations? Does God still speak to us today? Is His Word reliable? Is it relevant for today? If these are questions that you have asked, please plan to attend “Fit For Life in Christ,” an exciting course in Christian growth that presents the Word of God in new and meaningful ways.

It is a course for those who are interested in membership in our church, or for anyone who wants to know what it really means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. We are beginning a new class soon. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Moeller, about a time that would work well for you and/or your friends.

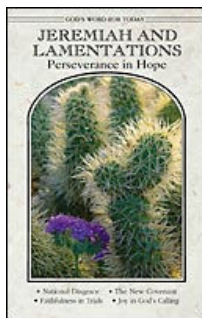
## How to Become A Member Of Trinity Lutheran

We extend the Sacrament of Baptism to all who have not been baptized—infants, children, youth, and adults. We invite those adults who are looking for a church home to come to one of our New Member Orientation classes. A new class will begin soon. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Moeller as soon as possible.

Upon completion of this class you may join Trinity Lutheran Church in one of the following ways:

- The Rite of Confirmation for those who have never been confirmed in the Lutheran Church.
- A Letter of Transfer is gladly accepted if you wish to transfer your membership from another Lutheran congregation.
- Reaffirmation of faith is for those who have been confirmed in a Lutheran church but have not been active in their former church.

## Lifelight Bible Study



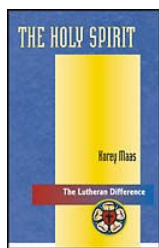
When the Book of Jeremiah first appeared, it was cut in pieces and burned. It was rewritten and is now more than twenty-five hundred years old. Jeremiah’s prophecy is long, longer than all the biblical books except Psalms. Jeremiah’s writings are difficult to study, for they have many passages of grief and tragedy. Yet, God wants you to study these books and treasure their message. As you study the writings of Jeremiah—his prophecy and his lament—may the Lord richly bless you.

There are about forty direct and indirect references to Jeremiah’s writings in the New Testament. Half of them occur in the Revelation to St. John, which compares the Old Testament kingdom of Babylon with the kingdom of Satan. Special passages in this study will help you see Jeremiah’s influence on the New Testament and his

relationship to the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.

Please join the Lifelight Bible study each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., as we study portions of these two important Old Testament books.

## The Holy Spirit: The Lutheran Difference



“Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?”

“Sure . . . well, aren’t all Christians filled with the Holy Spirit?”

As Lutherans interact with other Christians, they often find themselves struggling to explain their beliefs and practices.

The Lutheran Difference Bible study series will identify how Lutherans differ from other Christians and show from the Bible why Lutherans differ. These studies will prepare Lutherans to share their faith and help non-Lutherans understand the Lutheran difference.

All adults and high school students are invited to join us each Sunday at 10:45 a.m., as we discuss the work of the Holy Spirit.

### **Vacation Bible School Planning**

It is once again that time of year when we begin planning for our Vacation Bible School Program (June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>). VBS is a phenomenal ministry and opportunity to teach many children about their Savior and His great love for us.

Each year our numbers have grown increasing larger and with the expansion of our daycare we anticipate an even greater number this year. Unless we are able to find enough teachers and other support staff, we will have to limit the number of children that we allow to be in our program. Please prayerfully consider the ways in which you may be able to help us out. For more information, please speak with Pastor Moeller or Jessi Moeller.

### **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend**

Give your wife or husband a gift of love this year! A gift of love that will bless you year after year! What better gift to give your spouse, or to give each other, than the experience of a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend?

What is Marriage Encounter? In a nutshell, it is a weekend away from the daily pressures of life and responsibilities. It is an opportunity to focus on each other. It is an opportunity to help improve our communication in a relaxed and private setting. It is for couples with “*good*” marriages who want to enrich what they already have. There are NO “group discussions.” It is a series of presentations that touch on many aspects of marriage given by three lay couples and a clergy couple. After each presentation, the couple has time in the privacy of their own room for personal sharing using the communication techniques learned on the weekend.

The next opportunity for a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend is March 7-9, 2008 in Sioux Falls, SD at the Good Samaritan Retreat Center. The cost is \$45 to register (this reserves your room and meals) and a freewill donation at the end of the weekend. If you want to know more, or to register, go to [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) or contact: 1-800-235-1010 or one of these couples:

Vernon and Karen Harrington 712 533 6221 [giblem@frontiernet.net](mailto:giblem@frontiernet.net)  
Milton and Donna Kaufman 605 651 3231 [miltkauf@tnics.com](mailto:miltkauf@tnics.com)  
Pastor Bob and Aimee Moeller 605 526 3572 [seelsorge8@aol.com](mailto:seelsorge8@aol.com)

Maybe you have already attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Many couples appreciate another weekend as much or more than the first one. We invite you to return for an updated version of the weekend that still concentrates on communication.

The vision of Lutheran Marriage Encounter is “The Lutheran Church renewed and our world changed through strengthened couple relationships and stronger personal relationships with Christ.” The weekend is presented by Lutherans but people of any faith are welcome. Think about this chance for an opportunity to take a new look at your marriage and your partner! Learn simple, effective communication techniques. Enhance the love that you share.

Attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend! Registrations for this weekend are needed by February 22, 2008. Here are actual quotes from couples in this area who have attended a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend:

- “I looked forward to this weekend with positive expectations and was NOT disappointed. It is making a difference in all areas of our lives.”
- “After many years of marriage, we learned to listen and accept each other’s feelings. We found healing and a new level of intimacy”
- “I am so glad we took the risk to make the Weekend!”
- “We were a stubborn team of horses, each pulling a different direction. Marriage Encounter helped us pull together in the same direction and how our lives were enriched!”

## Can you believe it?

Eight months ago we began to learn about the development of a baby from conception to birth. During the eighth month the baby continues to gain weight. A layer of fat is developing to keep her warm after birth. Her lungs are now fully developed and capable of making the transition to breathing air. After birth she will continue the human growth process for approximately 80 years. Just think, even Jesus went through this growth process! Life is a precious gift given to each of us. Thanks for your continued support of giving to the ultrasound machine “mission”.

## Song of Solomon Bible Study

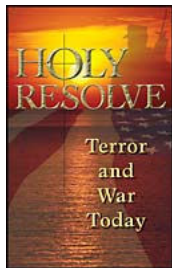


One of the most beautiful books in the Bible, Song of Solomon is also perhaps one of the most difficult to interpret for people of faith. However, the themes of love and longing, and expectation and fulfillment take on a wondrous cast and hue when seen as a reflection of God’s love for His people. Properly understood this book will teach you about:

- the power and beauty of physical love within the clearly defined boundaries that God has established.
- the reflection of Christ’s love for His Church, through faithful, human marriage.
- the consummation of God’s love for us in Christ, to be celebrated at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Please join us for this interesting and informative Bible study each Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. We will begin January 8, 2008. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to Pastor Moeller so he can have enough study materials.

## Men’s Bible Study



Terrorism has changed the way we think about war. It will change the way we wage war. How does this affect us as Christians who resolve to follow God’s holy will as revealed in His Word? Our next Men’s Bible study, “Holy Resolve: Terror and War Today,” will help us understand what the Bible teaches about war, justice, and peace as we pray about the current challenges facing our nation. It is designed to enable us to care for each other and wrestle with individual Scriptural passages and general scriptural teaching.

All men of the congregation are invited to this Bible study each week beginning January 7, 2008. We meet in the fellowship hall each Monday at 6:00 a.m. for breakfast and Bible study.

## Church Council & Voters Meetings

The Church Council will be meeting on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. All committees and groups are asked to submit a written report of their activities during 2007 to Secretary, June Snyder, before that day. The council will be prepare the agenda for the annual voters meeting, scheduled for Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. There will be a potluck dinner at noon on that day. Everyone is invited!

## **Poinsettias**

### **Name**

Dale & June Snyder

George & Donna Vogt,  
Earle & Connie Geide,  
Arnold & Ruth Arends  
& Jean Gregersen

Melvin Matthies

Lance & Cindy Wollmann

Joe & Mary Krizan Family

Steve & LeAnna Oligmueller

Dwane & Audrey Matthies

Bob & Ruth Moore

DeWane & Joyce Carls

Harvey & LaRaye Rehfeldt  
Richard & Donna Bowden

Ray & JoAnn Matthies

Denny Plagman

Pastor & Aimee Moeller Family

Talis & Laura Johnson Family

Louis Thompson

Tim Vilhauer

LWML

### **In Memory/Honor**

Jonpaul Snyder  
Mae & Alfred Snyder

Parents Felix & Ella Geide  
& Sister Lila Mae Anderson

Emma & Herman Matthies

Rodney Selken

Monna Esser

Clifford & Dwayne Selland  
Mark & Ashley Oligmueller

Bill & Mae Matthies  
Elmer & Gunhild Twedt

Willie & Frieda Kleist

Walt & Clara Carls  
Ethel Monson

Albert & Jeanette Rehfeldt  
Nora & Conrad Eichstedt  
Donna Jacobs  
Billy Joe Rehfeldt

Bertha Matthies

Bud & Meta Plagman

JoAnn Laufenberg

# January 2008

## Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Head Elder: Tim Totton

### Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

Cleaners: John & Carlene Barber, Marilyn Matthies, Candace Nelson

Greeters: John & Carlene Barber

Head Usher: Holly Kelley, Emily Krizan

Acolyte: Travis Eggebraaten

### Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

Cleaners: Leslie & Brenda Erikson, Keith & Sherry Rueter

Greeters: Keith & Sherry Rueter

Head Usher: Holly Kelley, Emily Krizan

Acolyte: Kylee Thompson

### Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

Cleaners: Talis & Laura Johnson, Tim & Kathy Totton

Greeters: Tim & Kathy Totton

Head Usher: Holly Kelley, Emily Krizan

Acolyte: Erik Wolfe

### Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

Cleaners: Ken & Robin Kleba, Archie & Lisa Wolfe

Greeters: Ken & Robin Kleba

Head Usher: Holly Kelley, Emily Krizan

Acolyte: Dustin Kleba

### Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Cleaners: Denny & Walt Plagman, Chuck & Debbie Nelson

Greeters: Denny & Walt Plagman

Head Usher:

Acolyte: Erik Krizan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home	<b>2</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 am TLC Bible Study	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study 12:00 noon Elders meeting 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	<b>7</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service 7:00 pm Church Council	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 1:30 pm LWML 5:30 pm Confirmation class 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	<b>10</b> 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm LFL Soup Supper at Dimock	<b>14</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	<b>15</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation class 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	<b>17</b> 9:30 am Circuit Pastors meeting at Risen Savior-Tea 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study 12:00 noon Pot luck dinner 1:00 pm Annual Voters meeting	<b>21</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	<b>22</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation class 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	<b>24</b> 2:00 pm SF Area Church planting 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 1:00 pm SDLFL meeting at Zion, Mitchell
<b>27</b> 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study	<b>28</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	<b>29</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>30</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation class 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	<b>31</b> 2:00 pm Chapel @ Leisure Living 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study		